



## Gahanna PD Community Bulletin: September 2021



### Members of the Gahanna Community:

As we move into October, I want to address the increase in news coverage and the heightened awareness of regional increases in violent crime. The crime trends are real and to some extent, reflect shifting practices and priorities of our courts, prosecutors and society.

The advantage we have in Gahanna is broad engagement focused on crime prevention and established community standards. These standards include an expectation of proactive policing and problem-solving with accountability. Gahanna is not immune to the regional crime trends, but the dedicated men and women of the Division are doing everything they can to mitigate the rate and fear of crime in our city. This includes engaging the community in remaining alert and exercising crime prevention practices.

Policing today is an extremely difficult job that we find is made easier by the generous support we receive from our great community. Thank you.

Jeff Spence  
Chief of Police

Due to Beggars Night (Thursday, October 28), the last Civic Association meeting for the year will be held at 7 pm Wednesday, October 27.

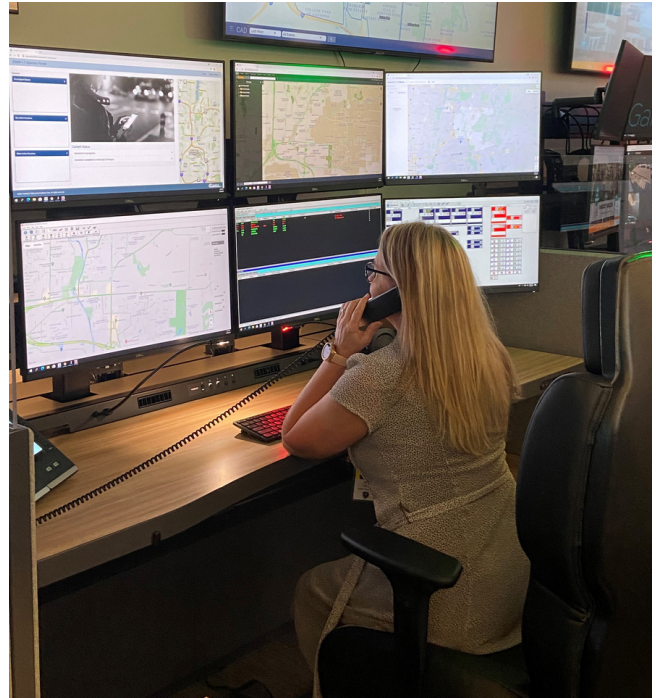
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## Summary of Division Activity for August

### Support Services - Communications Center:

- Dispatchers handled 853 9-1-1 calls throughout the month. 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center were answered in an average of 4.6 seconds. No text-to-911 messages were received.
- 79% of all 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center originated from cellular phones while 12% were received from VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephone lines/systems.
- An additional 2,464 calls were received through the Division's non-emergency lines.
- 2,949 calls for service were dispatched during the month.



### Gahanna 9-1-1 System Data

Month	9-1-1 Total	9-1-1 Wireless	9-1-1 Wireline	9-1-1 VoIP	No ANI/ALI	Average Answer Delay (Seconds)	Abandoned Calls	Rollover Calls	Non-Emergency Lines	Text to 9-1-1
January	710	556	48	102	3	4.00	80	0	2241	0
February	735	541	78	106	7	4.00	65	0	2141	0
March	732	554	69	104	3	4.00	70	0	2499	4
April	753	594	50	87	6	4.00	71	0	2195	1
May	853	665	75	86	3	5.00	62	1	2468	2
June	875	707	46	93	2	6.00	95	0	2689	3
July	901	718	45	112	15	5.00	76	0	2402	1
August	853	708	53	91	17	5.00	70	0	2464	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6412</b>	<b>5043</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>4.63</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19099</b>	<b>11</b>

1.49%

% Change

Year-to-Date

Total 9-1-1 Calls

6,412

2021 Year-to-Date

Total 9-1-1 Calls

6,318

2020 Year-to-Date

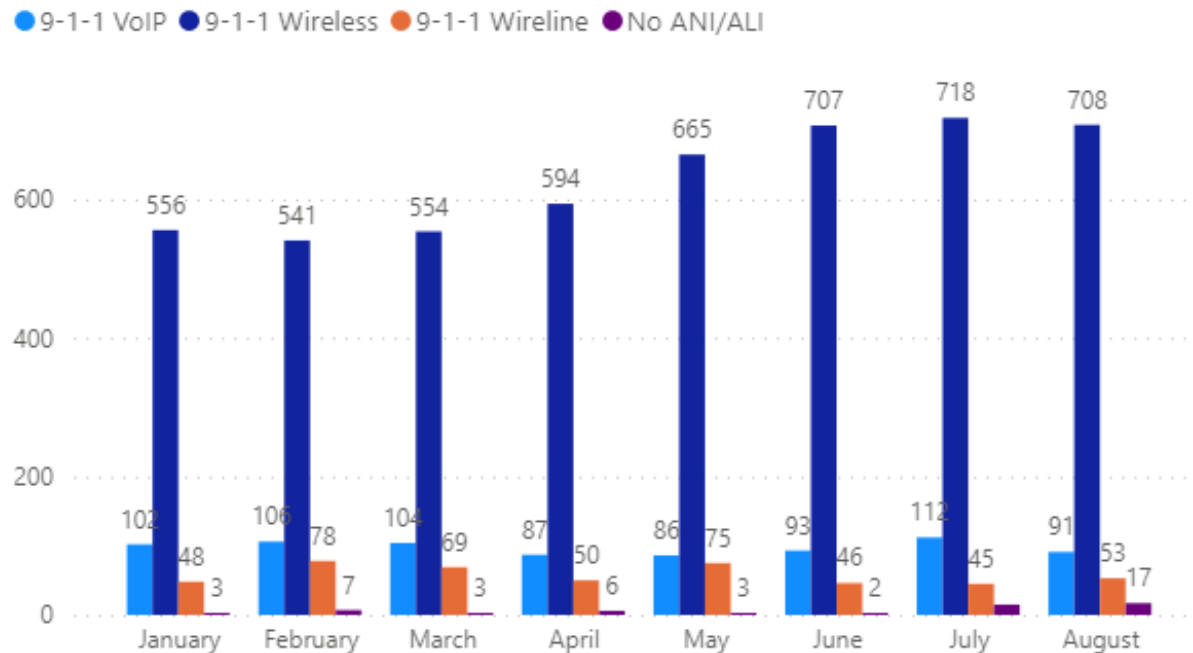
Total 9-1-1 Calls

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## Summary of Division Activity for August

### Total 9-1-1 Calls by Month & Type




## Field Services

~379 offense and arrest reports were generated in August.

- Two robberies were reported.
- 29 theft from vehicles were reported in August. Nearly all of the thefts occurred from unlocked vehicles.
- 14 incidents of criminal damaging occurred including several thefts of catalytic converters from Gahanna's Industrial Park area.
- Two burglaries occurred.
- Two Breaking & Entering offenses were reported with one arrest.
- Five vehicles were reported stolen with recoveries made in all cases.



## Field Services (Continued)

- 14 incidents of criminal damaging occurred including several thefts of catalytic converters from Gahanna's Industrial Park area.
  - Two burglaries occurred.
  - Two Breaking & Entering offenses were reported with one arrest.
  - Five vehicles were reported stolen with recoveries made in all cases.
- 
- Incidents of assaults (no domestic nexus) are as follows:
    - One aggravated assault was reported during the month.
    - Nine simple assaults, three arrests.
  - Domestic-related responses include:
    - 24 documented disputes that did not involve a criminal offense.
    - Five incidents resulted in arrests.
    - Seven offense reports were forwarded for investigation or further prosecutorial review.
  - Drug offenses for the month include:
    - Drug/Narcotics violations – three offense reports; two arrests; one warrant issued
    - Drug equipment violations – one offense report; two arrests; one warrant issued.
    - No overdose responses occurred during the month.

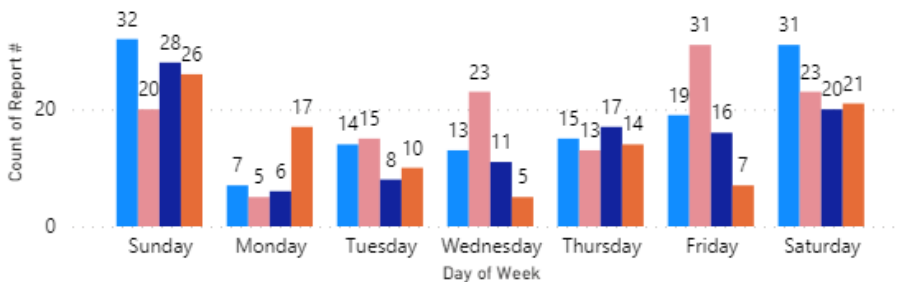
## Field Services (continued)

- 30 arrest warrant entries were made during the month.
- Officers conducted 503 self-initiated traffic stops with 200 citations issued; six arrests were made from the stops.
- The Division responded to 30 motor vehicle crashes with a further breakdown as follows:
  - No traffic fatalities occurred during the month.
  - No crashes were classified as serious injury suspected.
  - One crash was classified as minor injury suspected – 3.3% of crash responses.
  - Two were classified as injury possible – 6.6% of responses.
  - The remaining 27 crashes were classified as Property Damage Only (PDO) – 90% of responses.
  - Nine crashes occurred on IR-270 – 30% of all crash responses in Gahanna.
  - One incident involved alcohol and/or drug impairment – 3.3% of crash responses involved a level of impairment.
  - Two commercial vehicles were involved in crashes during the month – 6.6% of crash responses.
  - One motorcycle was involved in a crash – 3.3% of crash responses.
  - Distractions were reported in six of the 30 crashes.
- Patrol officers affected eight arrests for impaired driving (OVI).
  - Four arrestees refused to submit to chemical testing.
  - The average blood alcohol content for the remaining arrestees that submitted to testing was .23, or nearly three times the legal limit of intoxication in Ohio.
  - Saturday evening into Sunday morning resulted in the highest number of arrests.
  - Year-to-date 100 arrests have been made for impaired driving.

## Summary of Division Activity for August

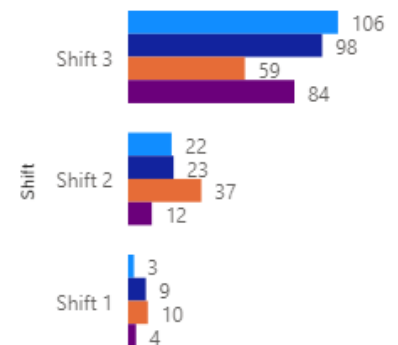
### OVI Arrests by Day of Week

Year ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021



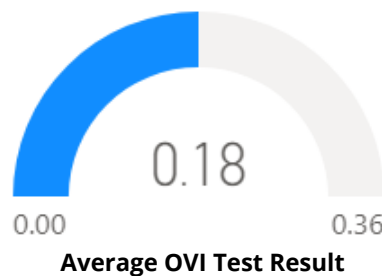
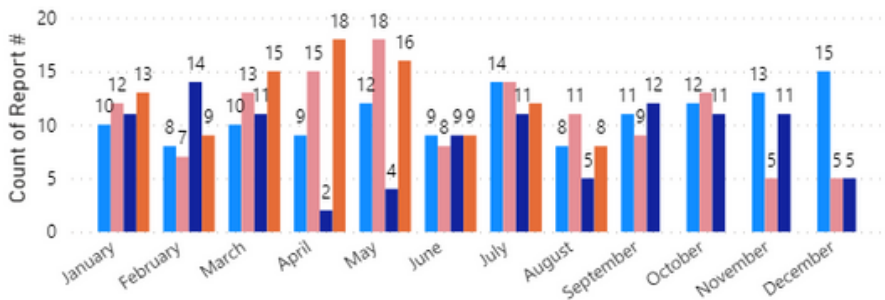
### OVI Arrests by Year & Shift

Year ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021

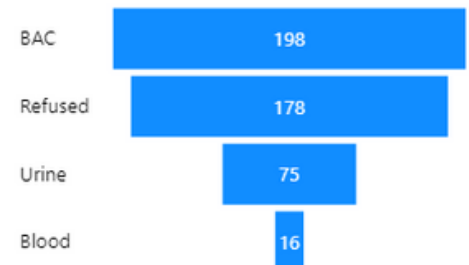


### OVI Arrests by Month

Year ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021



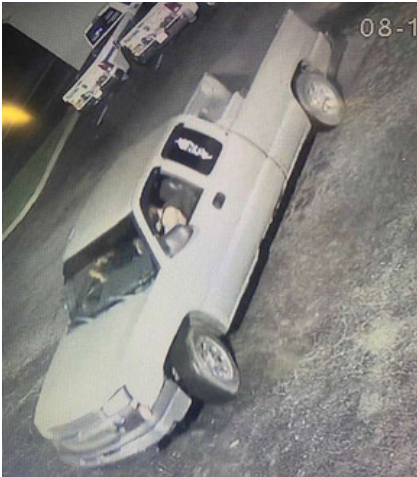
### OVI Testing Type Total



### Investigative Services:

- The Division's detectives were assigned 119 offense and arrest reports requiring investigative follow-up or other administrative action.
- Detectives obtained 11 investigative subpoenas and executed 11 search warrants during the month.

## Help Needed to Identify Crime Suspects



Surveillance Photo

In the early morning hours of August 12, a surveillance camera captured the image (left) of a suspect and vehicle from Fastenal (845 Claycraft Rd.). The suspect is wanted in connection with the theft of a catalytic converter from one of the company's fleet vehicles. Several catalytic converter thefts have occurred over the summer from area businesses.



In-store surveillance camera images

On September 4, at approximately 1:15 a.m., the suspect in the surveillance images (left) robbed the United Dairy Farmers location at 400 Cherry Bottom Rd. The suspect demanded cash from the store clerk and implied they were in possession of a handgun, but one was not seen.



In-store surveillance camera images

On Sunday, August 30, the suspects in the photos (left) used several credit cards at a central Ohio Speedway that had been stolen from an unlocked vehicle in Gahanna.

Should you recognize the suspects or have any information regarding these incidents, please contact the Division's detectives at 614-342-4240. Callers may remain anonymous.





## Now Accepting Lateral PD Applications



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LATERAL POLICE OFFICER  
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DIVISION OF POLICE**



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## October is National Crime Prevention Month



In 1984, October was designated as Crime Prevention Month through a Presidential proclamation. The theme for this month's bulletin is "How to Prevent Crime at Home".

Preventing crime at home helps keep your loved ones and neighborhood safe and secure. Most neighborhood crimes are property related crimes of opportunity. Most property crimes can be deterred if an effort is made to remove opportunity and attention to our homes and property.

To strengthen your home security, conduct an audit by starting at the curb where a potential thief will do their initial view of your home's potential. Examine your house and outbuildings for available means of entry, such as doors and windows, for functional locks. Check the basement windows and make sure your exterior door hinges are on the interior as opposed to the exterior. Everyone should avoid leaving doors and windows open, especially if no one is at home.

Criminals are looking for the quickest and easiest targets. Why break into a car, garage or shed that are locked when plenty are left open or unlocked? Leaving your garage door open at night creates easy access to the contents of your garage.

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## October is National Crime Prevention Month (cont.)

Vehicle entry and thefts from vehicles are the most prevalent neighborhood property crimes we deal with. Lock your car doors at night and don't leave obvious valuables in sight in a vehicle. If you have a garage, use it and shut your garage door.

The type and quality of door locks can make a difference. A deadbolt door lock is a much more substantial deterrent to someone than a standard entry lockset. If you have sliding glass doors, there are various special locks available to bolster their security.

Do you have exterior detection devices such as surveillance cameras or motion sensing lighting? Do you have dark places where people can hide undetected as you are coming and going from your residence?

Educate your children on security measures they should take at home. They should learn to lock doors and activate alarm systems when they are home alone. They should never open the door for anyone when home alone.

Before you leave on vacation, make sure you put lights on timers, set your alarm system, stop your mail, newspaper, and any package delivery so that your absence isn't apparent to a potential thief. Gahanna has a house watch program available for residents. Officers will check on the residence at irregular and unannounced times during your absence.

Many times, residents fret over the necessity to call us when they see something odd in their neighborhood. Remember because you live there, no one is more qualified to know what is usual and what is unusual for your street. So, if you see anything suspicious call us. We will be happy to respond and investigate.



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## Trick or Treat Safety



The Gahanna Division of Police encourages parents and little ghouls and boys to practice safe Trick or Treating on Beggars Night (Oct. 28). Here are some safety tips to remember:



- Trick-or-treat during daylight hours.
- Kids shouldn't go out alone on Halloween.
- Kids shouldn't eat treats until they have been examined.
- Fruit should be cut and and closely examined before eating.
- Advise children to never enter strangers' homes.
- Give wrapped homemade treats only to children you know.
- Instruct kids not to stray from their group.
- Carry a flashlight.
- Parents should know what route their children will be taking.
- Costumes should be made of light-colored, fireproof material.
- Children should wear proper fitting, comfortable costumes and shoes.
- Children should always use sidewalks, not the street, for walking.
- Children should look in all directions before crossing the street.





Thank you!

GAHANNA DIVISION OF POLICE  
*"To Serve and Protect"*



"The Mission of the Gahanna Division of Police is to serve and protect our diverse community by building partnerships in order to provide professional law enforcement services that safeguard the lives, rights, and property of all."

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